

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of pending claims with a status identifier in parentheses.

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a reference field picture for decoding a current field macroblock in a bi-predictive frame, comprising:
determining, by a decoder, a reference frame picture index in a reference picture list for the bi-predictive frame based on a display order;

determining, by the decoder, a reference field picture for the current field macroblock from the a-reference picture list ~~composed of reference frames, by a decoder, the reference picture being one of a P-picture and I-picture,~~ the determined reference field picture being one of a top field and a bottom field of a reference frame;

wherein the determining step determines a field having a same parity as the current field macroblock or a different parity from the current field macroblock as a the reference field picture based upon reference picture index information, the reference frame picture index information for the reference frame, and field parity of the current field macroblock,

wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, then the determined field has a field parity different from the current field macroblock.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:
encoding/decoding the field macroblock using the determined reference picture.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number, then the determined field has a same parity as the current field macroblock.

25-26. (Cancelled)